

REMARKS

Claims 1-16 are all the claims presently pending in the application. Claims 1, 3, 5-7, 9, 11, and 13-14 are amended to more clearly define the invention. Claims 1, 5, 9, and 13 are independent.

These amendments are made only to more particularly point out the invention for the Examiner and not for narrowing the scope of the claims or for any reason related to a statutory requirement for patentability.

Applicants also note that, notwithstanding any claim amendments herein or later during prosecution, Applicants' intent is to encompass equivalents of all claim elements.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's indication that claims 3-4, 6, 8, 11-12, 14, and 16 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. However, Applicants respectfully submit that all of the claims are allowable.

Claims 9-10, 13, and 15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by the Nakajima et al. reference. Claims 1-2, 5, and 7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Ko reference in view of the Nakajima et al. reference.

These rejections are respectfully traversed in the following discussion.

I. THE CLAIMED INVENTION

An exemplary embodiment of the claimed invention as defined by, for example, independent claim 1, is directed to a display apparatus that includes a main unit, a display unit translatably mounted with respect to the main unit, an operation panel detachably attached to the main unit or to the display unit, and a controller adapted to control a translation of the

display unit with respect to the main unit. The controller controls a translation of the display unit so as to accommodate the display unit into the main unit when the operation panel is detached from the main unit or the display unit and the display unit is projected from the main unit.

Conventional display units which include a display that is translatable so as to be projected from a main unit have problems because, even though these units may have a detachable operation panel, a display which is in the projected position is easily viewable to a thief and, therefore, may attract and tempt a thief to steal the display unit. The display unit being in a projected position tells a prospective thief that the display unit may be a relatively expensive display unit.

Therefore, an owner of such a display unit must also remember to cause the display to retract back into the main unit so that it is accommodated within the main unit such that it is not visible to a prospective thief.

However, such an operation is cumbersome to a user and, therefore, may oftentimes be neglected by the user.

In stark contrast, an exemplary embodiment of the claimed invention provides a controller that controls a translation of the display unit so as to accommodate the display unit into the main unit when the operation panel is detached from the main unit or the display unit and the display unit is projected from the main unit. In this manner, the claimed invention prevents the operation of accommodating the display unit into the main unit from being neglected and, therefore, reduces the risk of theft.

II. THE PRIOR ART REJECTIONS

A. The Nakajima et al. reference

Regarding the rejection of claims 9-10, 13, and 15, the Examiner alleges that the Nakajima et al. reference teaches the claimed invention. Applicants submit, however, that there are elements of the claimed invention which are neither taught nor suggested by the Nakajima et al. reference.

None of the applied references teaches or suggest the features of the claimed invention including: 1) a display control that controls a translation of the display unit to accommodate the display unit into the main unit when the operation panel is detached from the main unit or the display unit and the display unit is projected from the main unit (claim 9); and 2) a display control that controls the translation of the display unit to project from the main unit when the operation panel is attached to the main unit or the display unit and the display unit is accommodated in the main unit (claim 13). As explained above, these features are important for preventing the operation of accommodating the display unit into the main unit from being neglected and, therefore, reducing the risk of theft.

In stark contrast, the Nakajima et al. reference merely discloses a controller 40 which applies power to a face plate 30 only when that face plate 30 has been attached to an instrument body 10 such that projections 62c and 64c are depressed by the face plate 30. The depression of the projections 62c and 64c ensures that the face plate 30 has been fully and completely attached to the instrument body. (Col. 8, line 37 - col. 9, line 35).

Indeed, the Nakajima et al. reference does not teach or suggest any controller at all that controls a translation of a display unit, let alone a controller that controls a translation of a display unit to be accommodated within a main unit (claim 9), or a controller that controls a

translation of a display unit to project from a main unit (claim 13).

Rather, the Nakajima et al. reference only discloses a manual translation (movement) of a display unit and only discloses controlling the application of power to a face plate.

Clearly the Nakajima et al. reference does not teach or suggest the features of the claimed invention including: 1) a display control that controls a translation of the display unit to accommodate the display unit into the main unit when the operation panel is detached from the main unit or the display unit and the display unit is projected from the main unit (claim 9); and 2) a display control that controls the translation of the display unit to project from the main unit when the operation panel is attached to the main unit or the display unit and the display unit is accommodated in the main unit (claim 13).

Therefore, the Nakajima et al. reference does not teach or suggest each and every element of the claimed invention and the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw this rejection of claims 9-10, 13, and 15.

B. The Ko reference in view of the Nakajima et al. reference

Regarding the rejection of claims 1-2, 5, and 7, the Examiner alleges that the Nakajima et al. reference would have been combined with the Ko reference to form the claimed invention. Applicants submit, however, that these references would not have been combined and even if combined, the combination would not teach or suggest each and every element of the claimed invention.

None of the applied references teaches or suggests the features of the claimed invention including: 1) a controller that controls a translation of the display unit so as to accommodate the display unit into the main unit when the operation panel is detached from

the main unit or the display unit and the display unit is projected from the main unit (claim 1); and 2) a controller that controls a translation of the display unit so as to project the display unit from the main unit when the operation panel is attached to the main unit or the display unit and the display unit is accommodated in the main unit (claim 5). As explained above, these features are important for preventing the operation of accommodating the display unit into the main unit from being neglected and, therefore, reducing the risk of theft.

The Examiner admits that the Ko reference does not teach or suggest these features and the Examiner does not allege that the Nakajima et al. reference remedies these deficiencies of the Ko reference.

As explained above, the Nakajima et al. reference clearly does not remedy the deficiencies of the Ko references.

Further, Applicants submit that these references would not have been combined as alleged by the Examiner.

The Examiner alleges that one of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to modify the notebook computer that is disclosed by the Ko reference with a controller that only applies power to a detachable face plate when that face plate is fully attached to a main unit as disclosed by the Nakajima et al. reference “to prevent theft.”

However, the Examiner’s alleged motivation to modify is clearly not applicable to the notebook computer that is disclosed by the Ko reference.

The Nakajima et al. reference is concerned with solving the problems that associated with providing power to a face plate before that face plate is completely attached to the main unit.

The notebook computer that is disclosed by the Ko reference does not include a

detachable face plate. Therefore, the notebook computer does not suffer from the problems which are solved by the Nakajima et al. reference.

Further, the controller that is disclosed by the Nakajima et al. reference which only applies power to a face plate when that face plate is fully attached to a main unit has absolutely nothing to do with preventing theft.

Rather, the problems that the Nakajima et al. reference solves by the controller are only directed to ensuring proper operation of the face plate when it is attached to the main unit. This has absolutely nothing to do with theft prevention.

Therefore, contrary to the Examiner's allegation, one of ordinary skill in the art would not have been motivated to modify the notebook computer that is disclosed by the Ko reference with a controller that only applies power to a detachable face plate when that face plate is fully attached to a main unit as disclosed by the Nakajima et al. reference "to prevent theft" because the notebook computer that is disclosed by the Ko reference does not include a detachable face plate AND the controller that is disclosed by the Nakajima et al. reference does not prevent theft.

Therefore, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the rejection of claims 1-2, 5, and 7.

III. FORMAL MATTERS AND CONCLUSION

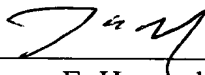
In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-16, all the claims presently pending in the Application, are patentably distinct over the prior art of record and are in condition for allowance. The Examiner is respectfully requested to pass the above application to issue at the earliest possible time.

Should the Examiner find the Application to be other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the local telephone number listed below to discuss any other changes deemed necessary in a telephonic or personal interview.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in fees or to credit any overpayment in fees to Attorney's Deposit Account No. 50-0481.

Respectfully Submitted,

Date: 2/27/06


James E. Howard
Registration No. 39,715

McGinn Intellectual Property Law Group, PLLC
8321 Old Courthouse Rd., Suite 200
Vienna, Virginia 22182
(703) 761-4100
Customer No. 21254